

Gila County Board of Supervisors
Attention: Mike Pastor, Chairman
1400 E. Ash Street
Globe, Arizona 85501



December 27, 2010

Dear Chairman Pastor, Supervisor Martin, and Supervisor Dawson,

For the past 9 years, the Old Dominion Mine Park (ODMP) Committee has been working with BHP-Billiton, the City of Globe, and numerous philanthropic organizations to establish a self-guided historic mining park at the location of the former Old Dominion Mine. The park will have walking trails, a restroom, parking, benches, picnic tables and ramadas, along with signage to explain how the mining industry worked in the late 1800's through the early 1930's when the mine closed. Along with the remaining building foundations, head frame and other artifacts, the Old Dominion Mine Park will make for a fascinating tour through history for both local residents and visitors to our area.

Our Park Dedication is scheduled for February 12, 2011, as a kickoff to the state's Centennial celebration year. We think the timing for our dedication couldn't be better as the Chamber of Commerce reports that the most frequent request they get from visitors is for a local mine tour and the most frequently asked question is "What's that black stuff?" (referring to the slag at the Old Dominion). The ODMP will meet existing tourism needs and hopefully generate more tourism and tourism-support businesses. This is particularly important as we move to diversify our local economic base and work to become a destination community to offset any challenges that might come when we are by-passed by the state highway in the future.

As we press into the final 7 weeks of development prior to our park dedication, we hope you can partner with us to meet our most pressing park needs, namely the construction of our park buildings. We currently have over \$200,000 invested into the park. While we have money set aside for building materials, we are requesting an Economic Development Grant of \$65,000 to cover the construction costs for our picnic pavilions, park ramadas, bathroom (with connection to the city's sewer and water system), and walking trail bridges. We are working with local businesses for our supplies and local contractors that are MSHA-certified.

"The Old Dominion Historic Mine Park is a sustainable, multi-purpose civic resource that encourages community gathering, recreation, and the promotion of our regional mining heritage."

On behalf of the Old Dominion Mine Park (ODMP) Committee, thank you for considering supporting our project to draw tourists to our region and to educate the public about the importance of mining. Please plan to attend our February 12th Park Dedication as we will be recognizing the contributions of all of the organizations and individuals who have aided in the development of the park.

If I may be of any assistance as you consider this request, please feel free to contact me at 928-200-8733 or DrTheaW@yahoo.com. Again, your on-going commitment to the well being of our community is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

Thea W. Wilshire
Chairman, Old Dominion Mine Park Committee

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